

For Immediate Release June 7, 2010 www.militarytomedicine.org

Military Spouses Take On the Boss

Last week, Military to Medicine's Executive Director Daniel Nichols issued a membership challenge to his outreach team. "Who could drive the most members to the Military to Medicine social community on Ning – the outreach team or him?"

With June 30 as the deadline the two-person outreach team, military spouses working from their homes in Texas and Georgia, were more than happy to accept the challenge. Armed with little more than laptops, the Internet and their personal connections gained from a combined 40 years as military spouses, Outreach Specialists Kristina Saul and Colleen Saffron are up to the test, but need your help.

"My goal every day is the same, spread the word to military spouses, war wounded and their caregivers, Veterans, National Guard, Reserve and their spouses as well as transitioning service members about the opportunities Military to Medicine offers," Saul said. Mother to a special needs child and a Navy husband she is geographically separated from, Saul knows personally the unique challenges the military spouse faces in finding a good job and maintaining it despite frequent moves and deployment schedules. "The boss' challenge just fired me up to make sure we showed him who had the most "reach," she said.

Military to Medicine, a not for profit national military service organization, provides online healthcare training and career opportunities from a growing network of healthcare employer partners. Whether you are new to healthcare or you have prior healthcare experience, Military to Medicine can help you get on a path to employment. Checking out the course catalog or the job board located on its Web site is a great first step.

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Nichols, a Chaplain in the Navy Reserve, has seen firsthand how deployment and service impact military families and their career options. He first started the Military to Medicine program as a recruitment initiative for Inova Health System in Falls Church, VA, in 2008. Following the success Inova experienced, in April 2010 Inova launched the Military to Medicine program nationally. The program simply seeks to train and place talent found from within the extended military family into healthcare positions nationwide. In brief – the program is changing the lives of military families nationwide. About the challenge with his outreach team, Nichols simply stated, "Game on!"

To help the Outreach team win the challenge and to learn more about Military to Medicine, visit www.militarytomedicine.org and join our Ning community from the home page under Ning. When you set up your profile on Ning make sure you go to the Vote Here tab http://militarytomedicine.ning.com/page/vote-here vote for Outreach or the Boss in order to be counted.

For Saul, Saffron and Nichols, pride is on the line. For folks who join the community, there's an iPad at stake! Once you join the social community on Ning, members have the opportunity to participate in the "Photograph the Military to Medicine Logo" competition where the winner will receive an iPad. To learn more about the competition, you need to go to the Ning site. "I just love to win," stated Saffron. "I firmly believe if you can't join them – then beat them!" she said as she went right to work at a local outreach event telling military spouses about Military to Medicine.

Military to Medicine is a program of Inova Health System. Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system based in Northern Virginia that consists of hospitals and other health services, including emergency- and urgent-care centers, home care, nursing homes, mental health and blood donor services, and wellness classes. Governed by a voluntary board of community members, Inova's mission is to improve the health of the diverse community it serves through excellence in patient care, education and research. Inova provides a healthy environment for its patients, families, visitors, staff and physicians by prohibiting tobacco use on its campuses.

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